

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

MITCHELL TODD CROWLEY, et al.,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:06cv1090-WKW
)	WO
PATRICK THOMPSON, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

HIPAA ORDER IN CIVIL ACTION

Upon consideration of the defendants' motion for protective order, (Doc. # 6), filed January 9, 2007, and for good cause, it is

ORDERED that the motion be and hereby is GRANTED as follows:

Upon compliance with Rule 45 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and upon filing the Motion for Protective Order Regarding Release of Medical Records, the attorneys for the parties are permitted to inspect and copy all health information relating to any individual who is a party to this case, or of any decedent or other real party in interest, represented by an executor, administrator, guardian, next friend, bailee or trustee, and to inspect and copy all information relative to payment for the provision of medical care to any such individual. Subject to the provisions of Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure pertaining to the scope and limits of discovery, the attorneys for the parties to this lawsuit may request an interview with any health care provider, health plan administrator, or other individual in connection with the aforementioned health information and payments therefore (such information collectively referred to hereafter as "Protected Health Information"). Such

health care provider, health plan administrator, or other individual may grant or deny a request for an interview.

This Court Order authorizes any third party who is provided with a subpoena requesting the production of documents or commanding attendance at deposition or trial to disclose Protected Health Information in response to such request or subpoena. This Court Order is intended to authorize such disclosures under Section 164.512(e)(1) of the privacy regulations issued pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

Nothing in this Order shall be deemed to relieve any party or attorney of the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Nothing in this Order permits disclosure of confidential communications, made for the purposes of diagnosis or treatment of a patient's mental or emotional condition, including alcohol or drug addiction, among the patient, the patient's psychotherapist, and persons who are participating in the diagnosis or treatment under the direction of the psychotherapist, including members of the patient's family, nor does this Order permit disclosure of records or information relating to HIV testing or sexually transmitted disease.

Nothing in this Order shall be construed to authorize any party or any attorney for any party to release, exchange, submit or share any Protected Health information with any other person or any other entity, other than an agent or employee of the attorney or party. The parties are prohibited from using or disclosing the protected health information from any purpose other than the litigation or proceeding for which such information was requested

pursuant to the requirements of 45 C.F.R. § 164.512(e)(1)(v)(A).

At the immediate conclusion of this action and at the written request of an individual whose Protected Health Information has been disclosed, or such individual's authorized representative, all recipients of the Protected Health Information shall return to the requesting party the documents and all copies thereof containing Protected Health Information received by them pursuant to this Order. If such written request is not made at the immediate conclusion of this action, all recipients of the Protected Health Information reserve the right to destroy such documents and any copies thereof containing Protected Health Information received by them pursuant to this Order. Such Protected Health Information received in an insurance claim file and law firm litigation file may be retained to allow compliance to the extent and for the period that such retention is required by Alabama insurance laws and the Alabama State Bar rules and regulations.

A photocopy of this Order shall be deemed as an original.

DONE, this 12th day of January, 2007.

/s/ Susan Russ Walker
SUSAN RUSS WALKER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE